

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A fluid system component is provided that is implemented as a section of metal pipe having a predetermined wall thickness and including a sacrificial element intended to preferentially fail upon the occurrence of certain predefined conditions. The sacrificial element takes the form of a window of predetermined geometry that covers an opening defined in the wall of the pipe. The window is configured to have a thickness substantially less than the wall thickness of the pipe, but nonetheless sufficiently great that the window remains materially unaffected by normal system operating conditions to which it is exposed. When the window is exposed to a pressure differential of predetermined magnitude, typically much greater than normal system operating pressures, the relatively thin window ruptures and permits the pressurized material, either inside or outside the pipe, to flow through the rupture.

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